

DOCKET NO: 263928US0PCT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF :
TADASHI KISEN, ET AL. : EXAMINER: LANGEL, WAYNE A.
SERIAL NO: 10/519,681 :
FILED: JANUARY 7, 2005 : GROUP ART UNIT: 1754
FOR: METHOD FOR :
DESULFURIZATION OF LIQUID
HYDROCARBONS AND PROCESS FOR
PRODUCTION OF HYDROGEN FOR
FUEL CELLS

DECLARATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.132

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22313

SIR:

I, Hisashi Katsuno, a citizen of JAPAN, hereby declare:

1. I am a named inventor in the above-captioned application, of which Idemitsu Kosan Co., Ltd. ("Idemitsu"), is the assignee.
2. In 1975, I received a bachelor's degree from Kagoshima university, in the field of of engineering. My studies were directed to the subject of applied chemistry.
2. I have been employed by Idemitsu from 1975 to the present.
3. From 1975 to 1980, I worked as plant engineer for Idemitsu in the area of kerosene hydrodesulfurization.
4. From 2000 to the present, I have been a researcher in the central research laboratories of Idemitsu. My duties as a researcher include desulfurization of kerosene and LPG.

5. I and/or those under my direct control and supervision carried out the experimentation described in the above-captioned application. Included in the experimentation was an analysis of the distillation characteristics, including T_{50} , of several liquid hydrocarbon samples. This analysis is described at page 20, lines 19 to 23 and in Table 1 at page 20 of the specification of the above-captioned application. The description at page 20, lines 19 to 23 states: "[t]he distillation characteristics of liquid hydrocarbons shown in Table 1 were determined by 'test method for distillation at atmospheric pressure' stipulated in JIS K2254 'Petroleum products – Determination of distillation characteristics.'"

6. Although not explicitly disclosed in the specification of the above-captioned patent application, the distillation characteristics of liquid hydrocarbons shown in Table 1 were determined by "test method for distillation at atmospheric pressure" stipulated in JIS K2254 "Petroleum products – Determination of distillation characteristics" as that standard was revised in 1998.

7. As would be apparent to one of ordinary skill in the art, the values obtained for "Temperature per percent recovered" in Table 1 are dependent on the method by which the analysis is conducted. If the analysis was not determined by "test method for distillation at atmospheric pressure" stipulated in JIS K2254 "Petroleum products – Determination of distillation characteristics" as that standard was published in 1998, the data reflected in Table 1 would not have been obtained. That is, evaluating distillation characteristics, including T_{50} , by the "test method for distillation at atmospheric pressure" stipulated in JIS K2254 "Petroleum products – Determination of distillation characteristics" as that standard was revised in 1998, is inherent in the disclosure of the above-captioned patent application.

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8. All statements made herein of my own knowledge are true, and all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements are punishable by fine and/or imprisonment under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of this application or any patent issuing therefrom.

Date: January 9, 2008

Hisashi Katsuno
Hisashi Katsuno